

Introduction

Sha'baan is the 8th month of the Islamic Calendar.

In this month Allah Ta'alah distributes abundance of blessings and livelihood.

According to a Hadith, this month is named Sha'baan because abundance of goodness (reward) is showered on those who fast in this month, until they attain Jannah (Paradise).

The Excellence of Sha'baan

The following are some Ahadith relating to the excellence of Sha'baan.

Hadith 1:

Hazrat Anas (may Allah be pleased with him) enquired from our beloved Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) that:

“After Ramadhan, which month is more excellent?”

Our beloved Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) replied: “Sha'baan”.

Hadith 2:

Hazrat Abu Hurairah (may Allah be please with him) reported that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, which means:

Rajab is the month of Allah, Sha'baan is my month and Ramadhan is that of my Ummah. Sha'baan removes ones sins and Ramadhan purifies one completely.

Hadith 3:

The messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, which means:

Between Rajab and Ramadhan is the sacred month of Sha'baan. People are unmindful of it, yet ones deeds are presented to Almighty Allah in this month. I wish my deeds are presented to Allah Ta'alah whilst I am amongst those who are fasting.

Hadith 4:

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, which means:

Superiority of Sha'baan over other months is like my superiority over all other Prophets (peace and blessings of Allah be upon them).

Hadith 5:

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, which means:

When the month of Sha'baan approaches you, cleanse your souls to receive the blessed month of Ramadhan. Rectify your intentions, for verily the greatness of Sha'baan is like my greatness over all other Prophets. Take heed, Sha'baan is my month and anyone who observes one fast in it, my intercession will become lawful for him.

Main Events of Sha'baan

The following are the main events of Sha'baan.

1. On the 5th of this month Syeddina Imam Hussein (may Allah be pleased with him) was born.
2. On the 15th of this month is the night of salvation (Laylatul Baraa'ah).
3. On the 16th of this month the direction of Qibla was change from Masjid Al-Aqsa to the Ka'bah.



Al-Aqsa



Ka'bah

Laylatul Baraa'ah - The Night of Salvation

According to a Hadith, the name of this blessed night is "Nisf Sha'baan" which means 15th night of Sha'baan.

This night is also called Laylatul Baraa'ah which means the night of salvation and seeking freedom from punishment and from calamities.

Duties Allocated to Angels

Hazrat Ibn-e-Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) said:

In the night of Nisf Sha'baan, Allah Ta'alah arranges the affairs for the whole year. He transfers (some of) the living to the list of dead, and records those who will make pilgrimage to the house of Allah, neither adding one too many nor leaving a single one of them out.

The Visitors of this Night

It is narrated that the departed souls (Arwaah) of the Muslims visit the houses of their relatives and friends in this night and proclaim:

O people of the house! You stay in our houses and enjoy the wealth that we have left behind. You use our children and take work from them, please perform Esaale Sawaab for us. Verily our deeds have ended, while your record of deeds is still spread.

If the people of the house perform Esaale Sawaab and Khatam Shareef in this night, then the Arwaah depart extremely happy and make Du'a for the people.

Three Hundred Gates of Mercy are Opened

Hazrat Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, which means:

Jibrael (peace be upon him) came to me in the night of Nisf Sha'baan and said to me: "Ya Rasulallah, raise your head towards the heaven!" I asked him: "What night is this?" he replied: "This is the night when Allah (Glorified is He) opens three hundred gates of mercy, forgiving all who do not associate partners with Him. The only exceptions are those who practice sorcery or divination, are addicted to wine or persist in usury and illicit sex; these He does not forgive until they repent.



The Eight Doors of Jannah are Opened

In the later part of the night, Jibraeel (peace be upon him) came down and said: Ya Rasulullah, raise your head!" So I looked up and saw the gates of Paradise wide open.

- **At the first gate an angel was calling: "Good news for those who bow in worship in this night!"**
- **At the second gate an angel was calling: "Good news for those who prostrate themselves in worship in this night!"**
- **At the third gate an angel was calling: "Good news for those who offer supplication in this night!"**
- **At the fourth gate an angel was calling: "Good news for those who make remembrance in this night!"**
- **At the fifth gate an angel was calling: "Good news for those who weep in this night from the fear of Allah!"**
- **At the sixth gate an angel was calling: "Good news for those who submit in this night!"**
- **At the seventh gate an angel was calling: "Is there anyone with requests, that his/her requests may be granted?"**
- **At the eighth gate an angel was calling: "Is there anyone seeking forgiveness, that he (she) may be forgiven?"**

Rasulullah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, which means:

"O Jibraeel, how long will these gates remain open?"

Jibraeel replied: "From the beginning of the night until the break of dawn (Fajr)"

Then Jibraeel (peace be upon him) said:

"Ya Rasulallah, tonight Allah frees as many slaves, from the fire of hell, as the number of hairs on the flocks and herds of Banu Kalab tribe."

Allah's beloved, Rasulallah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, which means:

Worship in the fifteenth night of Sha'baan and fast the following day. Because Allah Ta'alah's mercy descends to the lowest heaven, from sun set till dawn. He says:

Is there anyone with requests that his (her) requests may be granted?

Is there anyone who seeks forgiveness, that he (she) may be forgiven? (Ibne-Majah)

Sayyiduna Rasulallah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) has said, which means:

Verily! Almighty Allah directs His Special Grace on this world in this Night. He forgives more of my followers than the number of hairs of the sheep of the Banu Kalab.

Note: In those days the Banu Kalab possessed the most number of sheep than any other tribe.

Visit to the Cemetery

Hazrat Ayesha Siddiqa (may Allah be pleased with her) reports:

"One night, (15th of Sha'baan) I did not find the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in the house, so I went in search of him. I found him in Jannatul Baqi (the cemetery of Madinah) offering Du'a for the deceased and praying for their forgiveness". (Bayhiqi)

A special point must be made to visit the cemetery during this night and pray for the deceased.

Fasting

According to the Hadith narrated by Ibne Habban (may Allah be pleased with him) that Rasulullah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, which means:

When the night of 15th Sha'baan arrives, spend the night awake and fast the next day.

Hazrat Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) reports that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said often in his Khutba (sermon):

O people! Lighten and cleanse your bodies by way of fasting during Sha'baan, so that it shall be easy and helpful to you for the fasting during Ramadhan. Who ever fasts for three days during Sha'baan, all his past sins are wiped off.

(Bayhiqi)

Fasting is recommended on the 13th, 14th and 15th of this month.

Seek Forgiveness

It is the night of seeking forgiveness and repentance from Almighty Allah. In this night one should remember one's sins and sincerely repent and promise Allah Ta'alah to stay away from sins in the future.

The Most Unfortunate People

The following are most unfortunate people who will not benefit from this very blessed night, unless they sincerely repent from these terrible sins.

1. Mushrik (one who associates partners with Allah Ta'alah)
2. Wine and intoxicant drinkers
3. Adulterers
4. Prostitutes
5. Breaker of family ties
6. Bearer of malice
7. Disobedient to parents
8. Backbiters
9. Magicians
10. Consumers of Usury (Riba)

Wazifas and Nafil Salaah

After Asr Salaah recite:

1. 70 times Istighfar
2. 70 times Darood Shareef

Just before sunset recite:

La Hawla walaa Quwwata illa Billa hil a'liyil Azeem

40 times with three times Durood Shareef before and after.

It is mentioned that by reciting this, Almighty Allah will forgive forty years of sins.

Good News of Paradise

Sayyiduna Rasulullah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is reported to have said that Allah Ta'alah assigns 100 angels to the person who performs 100 raka'at Nafil Salaah in this auspicious night.

30 angels bring good news of Jannah

30 angels provide protection from the punishment of Hell

30 angels remove all misfortunes and miseries of this world

10 angels provide protection from Shaytaan.

Six Raka'at Nafil after Maghrib Salaah

In the fifteenth night of Sha'baan after the Maghrib Salaah, perform six raka'ats Nafil, in 2 raka'at units with the following intention (purpose).

1. Long pious life
2. Protection from calamities and misfortunes
3. Increase in subsistence (rizq)

After every two raka'ats, recite Surah Yaseen once.

After the six raka'ats, recite the dua for Nisf Sha'baan.

Reward For Ten Thousand Good Deeds

Anyone who performs 20 raka'ats Nafil, after Maghrib Salaah in such a way that after Surah Fatiha, recites Surah Ikhlaas 10 times in every raka'at, will be rewarded abundantly by Allah Ta'alah, and ten thousand good deeds will be recorded in his/her book of good deeds.

Peaceful End with Complete Faith/Imaan

Anyone who performs 2 raka'ats Nafil Salaah on the last Friday of Sha'baan, between Maghrib and Isha will die with full faith and Imaan. After Surah Fatiha, one should read Ayatul Kursi once, Surah Ikhlaas 10 times and Surah Falaq and Surah Naas once in each raka'at. Anyone who prays this Nafil Salaah and dies before the next Sha'baan, will die with Imaan, Insha-Allah.

Salaatul Tasbeeh

Performing of Salaatul Tasbeeh in this night is also very virtuous.

Details of Salaatul Tasbeeh can be found in books of Wazaif.

A Humble Appeal

Dear Muslim brothers and sisters, the Bountiful Allah in His Infinite Mercy has provided us with such an auspicious night so that we may take advantage of it and repent for our sins, and thus obtain His Grace and Favour.

During this night, doors of Mercy and Forgiveness are opened wide. Therefore if we offer the special prayers and repent sincerely for our past sins and seek forgiveness from Allah Ta'alah then Allah Ta'alah through His Mercy, will forgive us.

While we pray and make Dua for ourselves and our family, we should also remember in our Dua's those Muslims facing calamities in many parts of the world that may Allah Ta'alah grant them the strength and Istiqaamah (steadfastness) in Deen.

May Almighty Allah keep us on the straight path of the Ambiya and the Awliya. Ameen !